

REMARKS

In response to the final Office Action dated March 18, 2009, Applicants respectfully requests reconsideration.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 2-7, 9, 10, 12-14, 16-18 and 20-26 are allowed. Applicants also note that claims 33-35 are deemed allowable if rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, are overcome in a manner proposed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, to place the application in condition for allowance, Applicants have amended the claims as follows:

- Rejected claims 27-32 and 34 have been cancelled without prejudice;
- Dependent claim 21 has been cancelled without prejudice as it has been erroneously indicated as pending in the prior Response submitted on December 29, 2008; and
- Dependent claim 35 has amended to correct a typographical error in its dependency.

In addition, independent claim 33 has been amended to address the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Specifically, claim 33, as amended, expressly recites “a memory for storing one or more predefined time-dependent characteristics of each of a plurality of predefined lamp types,” as well as that the processor is configured to “determine a type of the lamp by comparing the one or more time-dependent characteristics of the lamp to one or more predefined time-dependent characteristics of each of a plurality of predefined lamp types.” New dependent claims 36-37 have been added to further limit the memory element to being “EEPROM disposed at the microprocessor” and “external to the microprocessor,” respectively. No new matter has been added, express support for these amendments and new claims being found in paragraphs [0034], [0035], and [0037] of the published specification.

Finally, the Office Action Summary indicates that the specification is objected to. No objections to the specification, however, are raised in the instant Office Action. Applicants believe that this indication is in error, because they have already addressed an objection to the specification in the prior Response.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicants' representative at the telephone number indicated below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

Dated: May 12, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

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